

4 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Speaking Requests

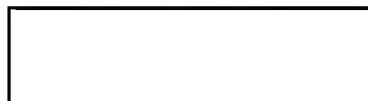
1. Over the past year, I have received a steadily increasing number of requests to give speeches or participate in seminars dealing with Vietnam. My standard policy is to refuse such requests unless they come from some official body (e.g., the National War College or Foreign Service Institute) and do not involve trips outside of Washington. Normally I do not bother you with these requests (though I do not accept any from outside the Agency without your concurrence), but I have three of them in hand on which I would like your guidance. I am inclined to accept two of them and would like to turn down the third, if you approve.

2. Last week Dr. George Tanham (former USAID Director of Rural Operations and now number two man in RAND's Washington office) asked me if I would participate in a seminar being arranged by Professor Samuel P. Huntington of Harvard. I told Tanham that I do not normally accept outside engagements and, in any event, would have to have some written description of the activity involved. On 31 March I received the attached letter from Professor Huntington, which is self-explanatory. I would not want to submit a paper but could give a talk on Sunday (14 May) without missing more than half a day at most (Monday morning) from my desk (with luck on airline connections, I could get back to Washington Sunday night). Subject to your approval, I am inclined to accept this request, since it would not involve much time away from work and because it seems to me that it would be good public relations for the Agency for me to participate in this exercise.

3. I have also received a request from the current Program Committee Chairman of the 1967 Delegation of Berzelius, my Senior Society at Yale, inviting me to speak at one of the Society's Sunday evening meetings this spring on a topic of my choice. Yale Senior Societies are curious institutions

with strict rules. No Society meeting may be attended except by current or past members, and nothing said at any meeting may be mentioned outside the Society's building (known in New Haven as its "tomb"). These ironclad, tradition-encrusted ground rules would minimize the risks of an unfortunate incident or publicity, were I to accept this invitation. Apart from personal considerations, I think this might be an opportunity to educate fifteen leading members of Yale's current senior class on the facts of life in Vietnam, thus performing, in essence, the same sort of service that we performed in speaking to Williams College's delegation which visited Washington last year. If I go, I can pick the date and be back at my desk by midday on the Monday after the Sunday session.

4. I have also received a letter from Mr. Francis P. Hoerber, Assistant Director of the Strategic Studies Center of the Stanford Research Institute, asking me to participate in this year's Military Operations Research Society Symposium to be held on 25, 26, and 27 April at Fort Bliss, Texas. This one, which would take three work days, I am strongly inclined to turn down unless you see reason why the Agency would benefit greatly from my participation.



George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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Attachment

Ltr from Professor Huntington  
dated 30 March 1967

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver/lkp/mee

Distribution

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